

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 and 32-35 are currently pending in the application. Claims 32-35 have been allowed.

Claims 1-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out distinctly claim the invention. In this group, claims 8, 9-12, 23, 24 and 27 are indicated to be allowable subject to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 being addressed.

Claims 1-7, 10, 11, 13-22, 25, 26, 29 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,598,823 (Swiderman).

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-30 is requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney wishes to thank Examiner Dillon for the courtesies extended to him at the interview on March 29, 2005. During the interview, the alleged problems under 35 U.S.C. §112, as well as the art rejection, were discussed. At the interview, the amendments as made herein to each of claims 1, 8, 10, 16, 23, 30 and 32 were discussed. The Examiner preliminarily indicated that these amendments would place the case in allowable condition.

The amendments made to the above claims distinguish over widthwise, side-to-side connection of blade elements as in Swiderman, wherein the blade elements do not overlap in a widthwise direction. While it is believed that the claims as pending prior to this amendment distinguished over the prior art and were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, these amendments have been made to clarify that they do not cover a structure as in Swiderman, as in Fig. 2, wherein the blades are placed side-by-side without widthwise overlap.

Entry of the amendment, reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-30, and allowance of the case are requested.

Should additional fees be required in connection with this matter, please charge our deposit account No. 23-0785.

Respectfully submitted,

By _____
John S. Mortimer, Reg. No. 30,407

WOOD, PHILLIPS, KATZ,
CLARK & MORTIMER
500 W. Madison St., Suite 3800
Chicago, IL 60661
(312) 876-1800

Date: May 31, 2005